

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of S.H.P. and T.C., Minors.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

VERGIEN LEE CRITTENDEN,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

JOHN A. PALMER and TYRONE DRAKE,

Respondents.

UNPUBLISHED

July 26, 2002

No. 233444

Wayne Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 94-320796

Before: Talbot, P.J., and Cooper and D. P. Ryan*, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent appeals by leave granted from an order terminating her parental rights to the minor children pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g), (i), and (j). We affirm. This case is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E).

The trial court did not err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 5.974(I); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). Respondent's parental rights to six other children had been terminated due to serious neglect. Respondent was given over two years to demonstrate an ability to properly parent her children, but failed to do so even after attending several parenting class sessions. Most telling was respondent's refusal to comply with the portion of the parent-agency agreement requiring her to attend individual counseling. Respondent also failed to maintain employment or obtain suitable housing.

* Circuit judge, sitting on the Court of Appeals by assignment.

Further, because at least one statutory ground for termination was established, the trial court was required to terminate respondent's parental rights unless the trial court found that termination was clearly not in the child's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 364-365; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Based on the evidence presented, the trial court's finding regarding the child's best interests was not clearly erroneous. *Trejo, supra*. Thus, the trial court did not err in terminating respondent's parental rights to the children.

Affirmed.

/s/ Michael J. Talbot

/s/ Jessica R. Cooper

/s/ Daniel P. Ryan